

JOSEPHINE D. HELLYER.

APRIL 24, 1884.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MATSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 4378.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4378) authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to increase the pension of Josephine D. Hellyer (widow of Charles Hellyer, who died on the 12th of June, 1883) to \$30 per month in lieu of the pension now allowed her, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report:

After a full and careful examination of the sworn petition of Josephine D. Hellyer and the accompanying evidence, the same being the sworn statement of her attending physician and neighbors, all being of high character, your committee have adopted the following report:

That she is wholly dependent on her pension, as the long illness of her husband immediately prior to his death necessitated the expenditure of what little they had gathered together, and her present pension of \$8 per month is inadequate to meet the exigency of her case, it being exceptional, and she being unable, owing to her affliction, to contribute anything to support or even to procure the necessaries of life.

This committee has not in any case seen fit to take into consideration the physical disability of the widow in determining the amount of a widow's pension. This would open a new and broad field for Congressional action, and could only result in injustice to the whole class, so we feel compelled to report adversely.

